

Mr. C—s L—s's

573

LAST WILL

AND

TESTAMENT,

In Favour of the CITIZENS

DUBLIN.



Printed in the Year, 1748.

Nov. 23

22—12—1717

Mr. C—s L—s's
LAST WILL, &c.

In the Name of, &c. &c. Amen.

AS the Period for my Decay seems to be near at Hand, and that according to the natural Course of Things, my Progress cannot last; in order to raise an Opinion of my Prudence, when dead, which I could not, when living, I think it proper to make a regular Disposition of my Affairs: Tho' I am persuaded, that my Enemies will call this my last Testament an Inventory of my Effects, and will assert, that in order to refute their Objection against my Circumstances, I make a publick Ostentation of my Riches.

In primis, I resign my Soul to the Regions allotted for Spirits of high Views and curious Researches, which from my Flights in Life you may very well imagine cannot be lower than the second Story in the *Empyreum*; and should there happen to be any Truth in the *Pythagorean Doctrine*. I hereby intimate my Desire, that my Soul should lodge in a Cock: a Bird, for whom I have the greatest Respect, as you may find in the Title-Page of all my Addresses; and thus shall I retain my Vigilance, my Readiness for Fight even with my Shadow; my Crowing victorious or defeated, in Time and out of Time: but the chief Reason of my Fondness for this Bird is, that it is the only Species of Creatures, among whom Blinkers are in any Sort of Reputation.

Item.

Item. I order that my Body should be deposited in a Tomb, erected for that Purpose, in the Place wherein the Aldermen hold their Board, as it is not very probable, that they will accomplish any of their Schemes, while I am in the Room: This surely will not be lumped among my other Actions as a Vanity, for you see that I condescend to be a Scare-crow: nor do I think that you could do a more sensible Thing, (tho' I do not absolutely insist upon it) than to elect me tho' dead as your Member, as I shall be the most exact Representative of a fallen People.

Item. I request that my Body should be attended to its Repository by my beloved Freemen, and independent Electors. Let these be divided into two Corps, the one called the *Roman Cohort*, the other the *Grecian Phalanx*: To my Friend *Nycticorax* I leave the Care of instructing his Romans in the famous *Næma*, while trusty *Quintinius* shall take the Pains of inculcating into his *Greeks* the pathetick *Opus*. Let the one not forget to put on that terrible sad Countenance, he has so often exhibited at several Deaths on the Stage to our great Surprise and Shock; the other's natural Sullenness and Gloom will suffice for any doleful Occasion: Thus shall I keep my Word of making the People *Greeks* and *Romans*; tho' my Enemies who persecute me daily, will continue their Inveteracy against me in the Grave, and, unacquainted with Classical Mourning, very probably find no Difference in this from the *Irish Cry*: To the *Manager's* sole Care I leave the Distribution of
Cakes

Cakes and Wine, as from the Management of his *Festino*, I have Room to imagine he can make the most of every Thing.

Item, I order that my *Molyneux's* State of Ireland, (dearer to me than *Aeschylus* to Parson Adams) shall be laid by my Side in the same Tomb: nor do I mean this (as fond as I am of being a leading Man) as an Introduction of that barbarous Custom of Burying with us, what we have been fond of in Life: tho' this might be of publick Service, as it would undoubtedly remove the odious Ideas some Ladies have of Matrimony; for Wives would never be in Danger: but my reason is, that as it never will be of such Service to any one, (witness the Glory acquired by my Speeches) it may as well rest in Peace with me as lie useless: My Friend the *Free-Briton* has my Leave to make use of this Hint with Respect to *Vertot's* *Revolutions*; nor do I think it improper to have some small Decorations by way of Trophies about me, such as the Streamers of the Barber-Surgeons, the memorable Pistols I carried during the Rebellion at the Play-house, not forgetting a large Blank Scrole to represent my Lease of the three penny Customs.

Item, I bequeath all my moving Vocatives, my earnestness in Speaking, and my tender Tones to the *Presbyterian* Clergy, who, since the admission of the New-light, or, in other words, new fashion of Religion among them, preach and pray with as little feeling, as a young Roman Catholick Lady of Fashion runs over her beads, or even as the orthodox

Divines

Divines of the Church of *England* by Law established.

Item, I order, that all my Epithets, allegorical Expressions, and continued Metaphors, shall be delivered safe and entire to my Enemy the *Tickler*; this partly to serve the Publick, as they may heighten the Sauce of his *Flattas*, and partly to shew the World, that our Enmity is not so hearted, as is imagined; for as we both have run thro' thick and thin to be remarkable, it was impossible not to spatter one another; with this Difference, that I have employed under-agents, he has done the dirty Work himself. But my seven-fold Shield, my seven sounding Words, LIBERTY, PROPERTY, CONSTITUTION, ANTICONSTITUTION, INDEPENDENCE, TYRANNY, ALDERMEN, I leave to the † Patriot, who, if he has Skill enough to ring the Changes upon these, may favour the World with two or three Papers more.

Item. I order that my Eloquence, should be divided into two: the one half to be given to the Mitred heads of this Kingdom: the other to the Professor of Oratory in our College for the time being: I know some People will not be pleased that it should not be handed down entire to the one or other; but let them consider, that the one have occasion for it but for State Sermons, where a little will suffice; and that for some Years it has not been known with the other, and always been a Rarity; so that you'll find a little may go a great way.

Item. I bequeath to the *Tickler* my Spirit to abuse

† A Paper lately printed, which if my Readers have not seen, it is no matter if they never see it.

abuse my Betters; of which he seems to have no small Share, as by a Name I have found in his Papers, mentioned with Disrespect, which many of the World esteem: the reason of the *Tickler's* just Contempt is the Man's Modesty, which he and I have blotted out from the Catalogue of virtuous Qualifications, and with great Reason, for I look upon it as great a Clog to a Genius, as two or three large Mortgages upon a good Estate.

Item. I order that my little Talent for Scandal, should be delivered with my best Compliments to those good and pretty Widows, who espouse my Cause in all Companies, and who, by the help of a little Invention, and at the small Expence of Good nature, pass for Wits; who neither miss a Prayer nor a Story said in their Parishes, and Report the One with as many Graces and Improvements, as they Repeat the Other with Devout Lisp, and dying rolling Eyes. Even these have had Enemies, who call their dining Rooms of a * Drum Day, the Slaughter-houses of Characters and Reputations, and take upon them to say, that, like *Ogresses* in Romance, they feed upon the Destruction and Ruin of others.

Item. I leave my knowledge of Politicks and History where I found it, I mean in these Books, from which I have made large Extracts for my Speeches and Addresses: this I know has been called Plagiarism and Theft by the Vulgar, who know not, that I have only done in Writing, what Sir Robert of Ministerial memory did in Planting; and not caring

* The modern Phrase for Assemblies of tattling Tea-drinking Gamesters,

a *Cato* as I am) to begin my Studies at these Years, have shewn that I could be Learned at once, as well as he could shew a thick Wood in a few Years: he accomplished his Scheme by transplanting full grown Trees, reared by Others into his Grounds, and I by taking in compleat Pages already printed into my Works: I own the method is Expensive, but it prevents much pains and trouble; and who can blame me, if incapable to beget Children, I have wisely adopted the Progeny of Men of Parts and Eminence.

Item. I Bequeath my most valuable piece of Furniture to the Poor, I mean my small portion of Sense, to the Poor in Spirit the Board of Aldermen; and this I believe will convince the World that I dye in Charity with all Men. It is much to be wished that they will not make a Division of it, but that they will Reserve it for that one among them, who shall at any time appear hereafter a Candidate to Represent this City, and the Scriblers that shall Write for him: This may do something to save Appearances, (for Reallities I never meddle with) for it seems very odd, that a Man should expect to obtain a Place, without even the shew of one necessary Qualification to fill it, or like Captain *Bluff*, pretend to Bully and Threaten without even Art or Strength to ward off one Blow.

Item. I leave my Lease of the three penny Customs to my eldest Son, purely to give him an opportunity of Inspecting into the Charters and Constitution of this City, which in time will give him an undoubted Right to a Seat in Parliament; and if this be once obtained, these Customs so much ridiculed may become

Formidable;
No Body.

Formidable; and indeed this was the view I had, for Solliciting the Votes of my honoured and beloved Fellow-Citizens during this Vacancy.

Item. To the rest of my Children, I leave the wide World, and who will assert after this, that I have not made an ample Provision for them?

I know that the Publick will expect that my Prophet's Mantle should drop upon some one, and that I should Bequeath my Spirit of Liberty to some active Citizen; but on the word of a dying Man it is not in my Power: For I solemnly protest, that this Spirit is but a mere Vapour, and therefore not to be transferred, as the rest of my Moveables.

Item. The vacant Seat in Parliament, which I look upon as my Right and Property, I bequeath as a Donation to the Publick, on this Condition, that the poorest Candidate, *ceteris paribus*, should be preferred; for as I am informed, that there is a Penny to be made of the Place, I think it fit, that he who wants it most should have it.

Thus have I disposed of all my effects to their utmost value, and hereby I declare this to be my sole Will and Testament, revoking all former Wills and Codiciles whatsoever, and declaring them, as by these presents, to be Null and Void to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered, at my House on O——d Q——y, this 23d Day of Nov. 1748. 6 DE 58

C—— L——.

Witness present,

Free-Briton,

No-Body.

